



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

SCIENCE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1919.

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----|
| <i>The General Biology Course and the Teaching of Elementary Botany and Zoology in American Colleges and Universities</i> ; PROFESSOR GEORGE E. NICHOLS | 509 |
| <i>State Academies of Science</i> : DR. DAVID D. WHITNEY | 517 |
| <i>Results of the Total Solar Eclipse of May 29 and the Relativity Theory</i> : DR. A. C. D. CROMMELIN | 518 |
| <i>Scientific Events:—</i> | |
| <i>Investigations on Influenza; Problems of Food and Nutrition; The Elizabeth Thompson Science Fund; Endowment of the Medical School of Vanderbilt University; The St. Louis Meeting of The American Association for the Advancement of Science.....</i> | 520 |
| <i>Scientific Notes and News</i> | 522 |
| <i>University and Educational News</i> | 523 |
| <i>Discussion and Correspondence:—</i> | |
| <i>An Appeal</i> : PROFESSOR RAYMOND PEARL. <i>Somatic Variation</i> : PROFESSOR LEON J. COLE AND JESSIE MEGEATH. <i>Steindachneridion</i> : PROFESSOR CARL H. EIGENMANN AND ROSA SMITH EIGENMANN. <i>Acoustic Effects of Wires</i> : DR. HARRY CLARK | 524 |
| <i>Quotations:—</i> | |
| <i>The Harveian Festival of the Royal College of Physicians of London</i> | 526 |
| <i>Scientific Books:—</i> | |
| <i>Miyake's Entomology</i> : DR. L. O. HOWARD. 627 | |
| <i>Special Articles:—</i> | |
| <i>Germinating Freshly Harvested Winter Wheat</i> : GEORGE T. HARRINGTON | 528 |

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to The Editor of Science, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

THE GENERAL BIOLOGY COURSE AND THE TEACHING OF ELEMENTARY BOTANY AND ZOOLOGY IN AMERICAN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES¹

THE general biology, or elementary biology, course originated with Huxley about fifty years ago and was introduced into this country by the physiologist, H. Newall Martin, one of Huxley's earlier students. In the introduction to Huxley and Martin's little text-book on Elementary Biology, Huxley states as his conviction "that the study of living bodies is really one discipline, which is divided into zoology and botany simply as a matter of convenience"; that "sound and thorough knowledge is only to be obtained by practical work in the laboratory"; and, further, that through the study of a series of selected animals and plants "a comprehensive, and yet not vague, conception of the phenomena of Life may be obtained, and a firm foundation upon which to build up special knowledge will be laid." A more recent text-book (Sedgwick and Wilson's "General Biology") states that general biology "deals with the broad, characteristic phenomena and laws of life as illustrated by the thorough comparative study of a series of plants and animals taken as representative types."

In the average general biology course the laboratory material is selected more or less indiscriminately from both the plant and the animal kingdoms, but with animal material greatly preponderant. The study of animals thus alternates with the study of plants: now a few animals and then a few plants. The aim of such a course is not so much to bring out the fundamental characteristics of plants as plants and of animals as animals, but rather to demonstrate that the two are merely different expressions of matter in the living

¹ Contribution from the Osborn Botanical Laboratory.